



## Epiphany of Christ News - June

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Pastor Steve Crittenden

### Pastor Steve's Message

God's beloved,

As we enter the month of June we enter the fourth month without in-person worship since we closed the campus on March 8th. This has been a period of mourning as we miss our friends who went back up north before we could say good-bye. And as we miss being gathered in worship and fellowship. It has been a time of mourning as we are unable to visit loved ones and friends in hospitals and care facilities. And we mourn the death of Judy Holder.

Yet, we praise our God who promises to turn our mourning into dancing (Psalm 30).

We move forward with uncertainty about what lays ahead. And still we move because we know that God accompanies us through this dark valley and because we trust that Jesus is our light in this darkness. And we know that this virus is neither a sign nor a punishment from God but, as always, God does good in the midst of tragedy. During the long season of Pentecost, look for the good that you see God doing in your life and in the world, and share those stories.

When this all began I made a pledge not to shave until after we've resumed in-person worship. Would that I knew what I know! Friends, unlike our God, I make promises I don't keep – and this is one of them. I am not meant to be bearded (though I enjoy that my beard hides a couple of my chins). .....

(Continued next column)

And so, I introduce you to our latest fund raiser – fund razor, actually. Council has authorized a sort of raffle. You have the opportunity to have your name pulled randomly from a hat (or other vessel). The person whose name is pulled gets to decide how I wear my facial hair for one week. Perhaps you'll choose the Tom Selleck (mustache only) or the Abraham Lincoln (beard but no mustache). Maybe even the Abraham Selleck (Tom on the left side, Abe on the right)! Your choice will be forever memorialized in that week's Bible study and worship recordings. The only caveat is no Hitler (or Charlie Chaplin) mustache. For every \$10 you donate to this, above your regular giving, your name goes in once. Simply send in or drop off a check and put "Fund Razor" in the memo. We'll draw the name on Monday, June 22, so get your checks in the mail. Remember, there are 2 goals in this: 1. Raise some money, and 2. HAVE FUN, for you have clothed me with joy (also Psalm 30) [not to mention getting rid of this beard].

Peace ----- Pastor Steve

### In Memoriam

Our church family is saddened by the death of Judy Holder, our Church Council President and one of the last remaining charter members of Epiphany of Christ. Please remember Judy's family in your prayers and in your expressions of condolence and sympathy. We were truly blessed by her presence and by her enduring devotion to our congregation.

***God's purpose for our church is to invite all to worship and grow through study, fellowship and mission.***

**Our masked gardening desperados working on the church grounds**

**Don, Roger and Juan**



**Book Club note from Fran**

Bob and I are staying well during the recent virus pandemic. I definitely have had an opportunity to catch up on the many books from my home bookshelf. Some of my reads were those that I would suggest that we all read and discuss at our meetings. Some of the others not so much!!!! Perhaps when we are able to again get together, we can all tell each other about the various books we read while “confined”! Miss you all. Stay well, hope to see you soon.

**What Have You Been Doing Lately??**

We’d love to hear how you are surviving this extended period of isolation. If you have a story you’d like to share with your church family, send it to [rh Larsen@msn.com](mailto:rh Larsen@msn.com) and we’ll try to put it in the next newsletter.

**What are some of the Church Council members doing to keep sane.**

**Traci Compton**-Council Secretary, Endowment Board, and Counting Committee

**What I’m doing:** crochet, read, sew, watch movies, sit in my rocking chair on the porch and watch the world go by and work 40 hours a week at the library.

**Negatives:** I miss seeing everyone, hearing their stories, the services and donuts.

**Positives:** working has created a false sense of normalcy and kept the stress manageable. And I get to enjoy Bible Study.

**Don Gimpel** – Property Committee Chair and any other trouble he can get into

**What I’m doing:** checking on the church, communicating with some of the older members through phone calls, repairing what needs to be repaired and weeding,

**Negatives:** missing people, hugging, not knowing how people are doing,

**Positives:** started attending park get-togethers

**A special note of appreciation to Pastor Steve for all of his work in mastering - on the run - the electronic delivery of our church services and bible study. Our hero!**

**The Church Council has been surprised and pleased with how faithful our church family has been in making donations during this virus crisis. We were truly fearful that we wouldn’t be able to pay our bills. Thank you so very much for your continued support. We have included two more donation envelopes with the hope that we will be able to have in-person services in the near future.**

**Thanks again and God bless!**